



## Discussion Questions for Ashlyn's Story

RCORP-ETC and Project Hope are producing digital stories that showcase how community members have been affected by opioid use disorder in rural East Tennessee. Digital stories have the power to transform communities, because they help people learn about and understand the experiences of others. To facilitate this, we have created discussion guides to accompany each of our digital stories. Discussing the events and themes of a digital story can improve understanding of the opioid epidemic and its effects, and ultimately reduce the stigma associated with opioid use disorder.

1. Let's start by recapping the video. How has Ashlyn experienced and been affected by the opioid epidemic?
2. Which scene from the video stuck with you the most?
3. What are the various ways opioid use disorder impacts family members? How can we best extend support to family members of individuals with a substance use disorder?
4. Ashlyn described her brother, Kirk, as someone who was able to excel academically despite using opioids. How might someone's ability to remain highly productive keep us from extending them the necessary resources to overcome a substance use disorder?
5. What are some ways we can encourage individuals who remain highly productive despite substance use to seek help?
6. Try to identify any stereotypes you may hold about individuals with substance use disorders. What assumptions do you tend to make about people who use substances? What did Ashlyn's story teach you about people living with addiction?
7. Ashlyn identifies several ways to help people with opioid use disorders. What are they? Why are they important? Is there anything else you would add to her recommendations?
8. How, if at all, did your opinion of the opioid epidemic change as you watched the video?
9. Are there any lingering questions from the video you are still thinking about?

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